

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00888 290428Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BELIZE 888

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH
SUBJECT: BELIZE AT UN; NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK

REF: BELIZE 843

1. IN REFTEL, IT WAS NOTED THAT PRICE HAD NOT GIVEN APPROVAL TO PLANS TO MEET WITH UK SECRETARY OF STATE AND UDP (BELIZE OPPOSITION PARTY) LEADERS IN NEW YORK. UNDER TERMS OF RECENT UK/BELIZE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING, BOTH PUP (GOVERNMENT) AND UDP WILL BE PRESENT AT THESE MEETINGS.

2. LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, BRIAN BERRY (BELIZE HOUSE MORE OR LESS "DCM") ADVISED ME THAT PRICE HAD FINALLY CONCURRED. WE WERE BOTH MYSTIFIED AS TO WHY HE HJD TAKEN SO VERY LONG TO MAKE UP HIS MIND ABOUT A MATTER TO WHICH ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT HE WOULD ASSENTED AT ONCE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN THAT HE WAS CANVASSING OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN KARIBBEAN. IT WOULD NOT SEEM ANY SORT OF USEFUL POLITICAL GAMBIT SINCE WE CAN SEE NO NO BENEFIT TO BE GAINED FROM THE DELAY. AT ANY RATE, IT NOW APPEARS SET THAT THE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE AS PER REFTEL IN NEW YORK CITY.

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3. WE ADVISED THAT BELIZEAN DELEGATION NOW BEGINNING TO SHAPE UP BOTH FOR UNGA AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, TALKS WITH OWEN. ON GOVERNMENT SIDE, IT SEEMS DELEGATION WILL BE LEAD BY DEPUTY PREMIER ROGERS. HE SHOULD BE WELL DOCUMENTED IN DEPT FILES. SUFFICE IT TO SAY HE IS WILEY, TOUGH AND MOTIVATED LARGELY BY SELF INTERESTS/ HE CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN PERSON TO PERSON TALKS AND HAS GOOD BACKGROUND IN THE WHOLE BELIZEAN

PROBLEM. HE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY ATT'Y. GEN'L. ASSAD SHOMEN ALSO WELL KNOWN TO DEPT. SHOMAN IS INTERESTING PERSON AND MIGHT BE USEFUL TO TRY AND CULTIVATE. HE IS BRIGHT ASCETIC AND RATHER MORE TO LEFT THAN IS POPULAR HERE ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH THOSE WHO CONSIDER HIM A COMMUNIST* HE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE, WE FEEL, OF THIRD WORLD NATIONALIST. THEY WILL POSSIBLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER TRADE SANTIAGO PERDOMO WHO HAS SERVED AS PRICE ERRAND RUNNER IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GUATEMALA DISPUTE. WE DO NOT REGARD HIM AS OVERLY BRIGHT NOR IMPECCABLY HONEST BUT HE IS USEFUL WORKHORSE. SUPPORT WILL BE GIVEN BY ROBERT LESLIE, CIVIL SERVANT IN OFFICE OF ATT'Y. GEN'L. HE IS BRIGHT, PRUDENT BUT NOT UNWILLING TO TALK AND COULD BE USEFUL PERSON TO KNOW. ALSO, FOR GOVERNMENT WILL BE V. H. COURTNEY WHO IS GOB (AND PUP) SPECIALIST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SO-CALLED MINISTER WUTHOUT PORTFOLIO AND AMBASSADOR THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. SOME CONSIDER HIM A BIT OF A LIGHT WEIGHT; I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS; HE SEEMS TO HAVE A PRETTY GOOD HANDLE ON HIS JOB AND IS CERTAINLY HIGHLY REGARDED BY PRICE AND PARTY. PRICE HIMSELF PLANS TO SPEND "SOMETIME" IN NEW YORK.

4. FOR TALKS WITH UK, UDP PLANS SEND DEAN LINDO, PARTY HEAD, SEN. KEN TILLET AND, ACCORDING TO TILLET, PROBABLY REP. JOSEPH ANDREWS. IN OUR OPINION TILLET IS BEST PERSON IN THIS GROUP. LINDO AS PARTY LEADER IS TOUGH AND AGGRESSIVE WITH PROBABLY VINDICTIVE NATURE. TILLET IS US EDUCATED (GEORGETOWN
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SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE) AND IS VERY INTELLIGENT AND THOUGHTFUL. HE IS QUIET AND NEITHER SMOKES NOR DRINKS, NOT GIVEN TO THE SOCIAL RAMBLE ALTHOUGH IF NECESSARY HE WILL ATTEND PARTIES.

I HAVE GIVEN HIM NAME OF LINDA PFIEFLE WHO WILL, I UNDERSTAND BE AT USUN. I WOULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS EXCEPT THAT I WANTED DEPT OFFICIALS TO MEET TILLET IF POSSIBLE. ANDEREWIS IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO US.
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